Knowledge and practices regarding prevention of occupational disorders among workers in a jute mill

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ABSTRACT: Health is a fundamental right of the human beings and globally it is also a social goal. But health is affected by many factors in the society through urbanization, industrialization and advancement of technology. Poor working conditions can also affect the environment workers live in, since the working and living environments are the same for many workers. This study is conducted to assess the knowledge and practices regarding prevention of occupational disorders among workers in a jute mill, Guntur. Descriptive survey approach, descriptive survey design were selected to conduct a study among 60 workers from jute mill selected by the convenient sampling technique. Data was collected by using knowledge questionnaire, observational checklist. The study showed that majority (65%) were having average knowledge and there is a significant relationship between knowledge and practices regarding prevention of occupational disorders.

INTRODUCTION

Health is a common theme in most cultures in fact, Work plays a central role in people's lives, since most workers spend at least eight hours a day in the workplace, whether it is on a plantation, in an office, factory, etc. Therefore, work environments should be safe and healthy. Yet this is not the case for many workers. Every day workers all over the world are faced with a multitude of health hazards, such as: dusts; gases; noise; vibration; extreme temperatures. Causative factors for the occupational disorders are air pollution, inhalation of dusts and chemicals, exposure to ionizing radiation, bacterial infections and risk factors for these disorders are low immunity, etc. A risk management approach is recommended to manage occupational health, providing an environment where employees are not exposed to health hazards.

NEED FOR THE STUDY

Globally 25000 million people of industrial workers are reported symptoms of occupational asthma and bronchitis and common symptoms of cough. The World Health Report 2002 of WHO reports that occupationalrisk factors account globally for a number of morbid conditions, including 37% backpain, 16% hearing loss, 13% chronic obstructive lung disease, 11% asthma, 10% inju-ries, 9% cancer, and 2% leukemia. According to Census 2001, about 40 million belong to the working population.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

A study to assess the knowledge and practices regarding prevention of occupational disorders among workers in a jute mill, Guntur, A.P.

OBJECTIVES

- To assess the knowledge of workers regarding prevention of occupational disorders.
- To assess the practices of workers regarding prevention of occupational disorders.
- To find association between knowledge of workers regarding prevention of occupational disorders with their selected demographic variables.
- To find association between practices of workers

regarding prevention of occupational disorders with their selected.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

Research Approach: Descriptive Survey Approach

Design: Descriptive survey Design.

Setting: Workers from Jute mill, Guntur.

Sample size: 60 workers.

Sampling Technique: Convenience Sampling Technique.

Description of the Tool:

It consists of two sections.

Section I:

Demographic data: Age, Sex, Education, Occupation, Monthly income, Life style habits.

Section II: Questionnaire to assess the knowledge of workers, observational checklist.

Variables:

Dependent Variable:

Dependent variables are the knowledge regarding prevention of occupational disorders.

Demographic Variable:

These are age, sex, religion, food habits, personal habits, education, monthly income,family history of illness, past illness.

Data Collection Procedure:

Total 60 workers from jute mill had selected by using convenience sampling technique. Data was collected by using questionnaire. It took 30 minutes to collect data from each worker and the data was analyzed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

Table-1: Frequency and percentage distribution of sample according to knowledge on prevention of occupational disorders.

Knowledge Level	Frequency	Percentage
Below Avg (<= 33.3%)	8	13.3
Avg (33.4%- 66.6%)	39	65.5
Above Avg (>=66.6%)	13	21.7
Total	60	100.0

The above table shows 65.5% were having average knowledge 21.7% were having above average knowledge 13.3 % were having below average knowledge.

TABLE -2: Correlation between knowledge and practices regarding prevention of occupational disorders N=60

		KNOWLEDGE SCORE	Practices TOTAL
KNOWLEDGE SCORE	Pearson Correlation	1	.978**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	60	60
Practices TOTAL	Pearson Correlation	.978**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)		000
	N	60	60

**Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed). There is a significant relation between knowledge and practices regarding prevention of occupational disorders. Hypothesis is accepted.

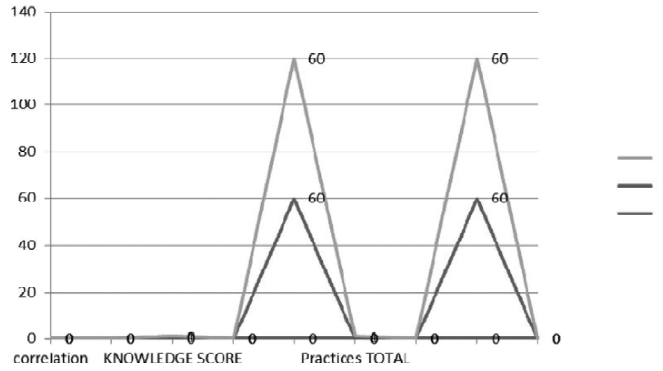

Fig - 1: Correlation between knowledge and practices regarding prevention of occupational disorders

**Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed). There is a significant relation between knowledge and practices regarding prevention of occupational disorders. Hypothesis is accepted.

Major findings of the study Most of the workers belongs to 30-39 years i.e 36.7%. 36.7% workers were belonged to Muslim religion. 40% workers were belonged to non vegetarian diet. 36.7% workers were belonged to alcoholism. 38.3% workers monthly income was 4001-5000.

CONCLUSION

❖ Around 65% of workers had average knowledge regarding prevention of occupational disorders.

❖ There is a significant association between knowledge of workers with selected demographic variables.

❖ More than 66% of workers had above average level of practices regarding prevention of occupational disorders

❖ There is no association between practices regarding prevention of occupational disorders with selected demographic variables. There is a significant relationship between knowledge and practices regarding prevention of occupational disorders.

IMPLICATIONS:

Nursing Practice: Occupational health nurse can be involved in imparting health education to the factory workers. Handouts, pamplates, posters and information booklets about disorders in work area and early detection and prevention of occupational disorders in factory area.

Nursing Education: Nursing education must be pre-oriented to primary health care approach. Nursing education should be enable the nurses to be prepared to assist people in communities Educational programmes on social problems should be conducted by the students in variety settings like community, factory, school, industry, hospitals and health care agencies.

Nursing Administration: Nursing administrator should provide necessary administrative suppot to conduct health education regarding prevention of occupational disorders in any setting as required.

Nursing Research: Nursing research on the occupational disorders and its prevention on various settings should be encouraged to generate good, valid and reliable data. This will provide a better picture on the magnitude this problem.Nurses who form an important cadre of professional should take initiative to conduct this type of research in the field of nursing.

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